

CAREER FOCUS

What's a SPECAT Assignment Guide?

Last week we discussed the purpose of the EQUAL-Plus Listing and the valuable information it offered regarding opportunities available through special duty assignments in the Air Force.

Of course that's just the starting point if you're looking to step up to a bigger challenge. Let's take it the next step and explore the following question.

Q I'm trying to broaden my experience—and I heard that Special Duty Assignments are a great way to gain that experience.

How can I get information concerning possible job options in various special duty assignments?

What's a good source of information to guide me if I want to explore these opportunities?

A A great source of information can be found online in the SPECAT (SPEcial CATegory) Assignment Guide at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/procedures/specat.htm.

Although it does not advertise special duty assignments (remember that's the function of the EQUAL-Plus), it does provide detailed guidance on eligibility requirements and application procedures for over 50 unique job opportunities including Professional Military Education Instructor, Recruiter, Military Training Instructor/MTL, Technical Training Instructor, first sergeant, U.S. Air Force Honor Guard, and so much more!

Sound interesting? Log on today and learn more about your future.

For more information call me at 846-6636 or make an appointment to visit with me—you'll be surprised at the opportunities that await you.



MASTER SGT. DAVID HALVORSON
TEAM KIRTLAND career assistance advisor

Base realignment, closure process, timeline explained

LAUGHLIN AFB, Texas—DOD has received congressional authorization for a base realignment and closure round in 2005.

Called BRAC 2005, the program is a means to achieve several goals: eliminate excess infrastructure to maximize operational capability; optimize military readiness; transform the Air Force by realigning infrastructure with future defense strategy and capitalize on opportunities for joint activity.

At a minimum, this BRAC round must eliminate excess

physical capacity and help DOD reduce waste, save money and free up resources to recruit quality people, modernize equipment and infrastructure, and develop the capabilities needed to meet 21st century threats, officials said.

All military installations will be equally evaluated, and recommendations will be based on approved, published criteria and a force structure plan. The primary consideration in reducing or restructuring U.S. military bases.

Timeline

★ **December 2003:** Secretary of defense submits the selection criteria followed by a 30-day public comment period.

★ **February 2004:** DOD publishes final selection criteria.

★ **March 2004:** Congress approves or disapproves criteria.

★ **March 2005:** President nominates commission.

★ **May 2005:** After gathering information and completing a comprehensive analysis, the secretary of

defense will submit recommendations for realigning or closing bases to the independent BRAC Commission.

★ **May to September 2005:** Commission review.

★ **September 2005:** The commission forwards its report on the recommendations to the president.

★ **Sept. 23, 2005:** Date by which the president must accept or reject the recommendations in their entirety and forward to Congress.

★ **Nov. 7, 2005:** Date by which Congress must act on the recommendations.



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FORUM kirtlandcc.forum@kirtland.af.mil, 846-4240



COL. HENRY L. ANDREWS, JR.
377th Air Base Wing commander

Forum

We want your suggestions and comments concerning Kirtland AFB.

However, may we also suggest giving base agencies or the chain of command the chance to resolve your concern before calling Forum.

If you decide the Forum is the right answer, we don't print callers' names.

Customer service

Chapel, 846-5691
CE Help Desk, 846-8222
Commissary, 846-9586
Computer help, 846-5926
Energy wasting, 846-4633
Exchange Service, 266-9887
Family Services, 846-0741
Finance, 846-8045, 846-6639
Law Enforcement, 846-7926
Legal Services, 846-4217
Medical Clinic, 846-3406
Services Squadron, 846-1828

Write: 377 ABW/CC Forum
2000 Wyoming SE
Kirtland AFB, NM 87117

Sandia Base traffic

Since EPT Management has taken over housing, traffic has become almost unbearable at Sandia Base Elementary.

The management company has erected a fence across a street in Loop housing that is used by people who have to drop off or pick up children at Sandia Base.

The light at the intersection of D Avenue and Wyoming is set to cycle too quickly, therefore not allowing much time for people to turn left before traffic interferes. I understand that traffic is heavier at 4 p.m., flowing off-base. But with the school children just leaving school at that time, there is a high potential for a traffic accident.

Is it possible for the traffic lights at D and Wyoming to be set a little longer to allow people to leave Sandia Base? Currently, there is only one entrance and exit to the school, and many of the parents driving children live on the West side of base. Or, could we somehow get the contractor to allow traffic to flow through Loop housing for 1/2 hour in the afternoon to alleviate traffic? Houses are not being torn down near the street that exits Loop to run into D Avenue, so I don't see the need to block that street if the contractor is not currently demolishing in that area.

Anything you can do to help with this concern will be greatly appreciated by all of the Sandia Base parents.

Thanks for bringing this to our attention. We have a short-term project in the works to install a traffic signal at Wyoming and A Avenue. We expect to have the signal installed by January and, until then, 7th Street (off Club Road) will remain open to allow access to the school from both 7th Street and A Avenue.

For the long term, we are seeking funding to reconstruct the intersection at Wyoming and A Street and connect A Avenue just South of the Coronado Club to A Avenue in

Pershing Park Housing. Based on traffic studies, this project will incorporate appropriate turn lanes, light timing, etc., at the intersection and provide better traffic flow to Pershing Park Housing.

We know there will be some inconvenience during the construction of our new housing and will do our best to minimize the inconvenience wherever possible.

4-wheelers in housing

Certain occupants in the Maxwell housing area seem to believe that the vacant area behind their house is a private four-wheeler track. The policy states, "Towed recreational vehicles, ...self-propelled RVs...will not be parked in any housing area except during weekends or for a 24-hour period before and after use."

Does the back porch fall into this category, or is this an "out of sight, out of mind" exception to the policy?

As far as off road vehicle use, again the policy states, "Do not drive vehicles off of established roads within the community," and then continues with damage to vegetation, developing ruts, compacting soil, soil erosion, etc.

I have contacted the housing office on several occasions over a period of three months or more and nothing has apparently been done.

Kirtland Family Housing is a committed member of TEAM KIRTLAND and has agreed to abide by and enforce base policies and rules. As a result, many rules are incorporated into each lease agreement signed by the responsible tenants. We are making every effort to ensure the housing areas are monitored for compliance with such rules. Because we can't observe each violation ourselves, concerned residents like yourself play a vital role by bringing concerns to the attention of the property management office.

The rules are specific on recreational vehicles within the housing

area. A KFH representative investigated your previous concerns and found no 4-wheelers present at that time. However, a subsequent visit revealed the repair and storing of four-wheel recreational vehicles.

The residents were provided an official advisement informing them of the violations involved, as well as a 48-hour deadline to locate a place to store their vehicles. The notice also reminded these residents that riding these recreational vehicles within the housing area is prohibited.

KFH will continue to monitor and address lease violations. Whenever practical and appropriate, we encourage you and your neighbors to resolve disputes at your level. However, you may always request KFH clarification of the rules and regulations should the need arise.

ITT open times

I am disappointed in the service at Information, Tickets and Travel. Last week during lunch, I went to ITT to make a purchase and the attendant was apparently also out to lunch. The only thing present, was a sign saying, "Be back at 1 p.m."

Today, to avoid the same misfortune, I arrived after lunch only to be greeted by another sign, this time, "Be back at 2 pm." You can imagine my frustration.

One solution, and a solution a paying customer shouldn't have to resort to, is to call ahead of time to make sure the station is manned. This however, is not always possible, as frequently ITT does not answer their phone.

I would not be writing this if it weren't for the many other irate customers I found baffled by the inconsistent customer service at ITT.

Thank you for voicing your concern over the inconsistent staff hours you experienced at the Information, Ticket and Travel office. During the times of your visits, the ITT office was very short staffed and the individual working there took her lunch breaks at different times. To avoid inconveniencing you and others, we hired an additional employee and established regular break times that will not fall during the peak service hours of lunchtime.